

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A cylindrical or truncated conical annular element or liner, in particular of plastic, for constructing a channel or pipe-cased shaft or a pipeline, whereby aligned longitudinal ribs (3) are provided on the outer surface (5) of the annular element (1), in particular, parallel to the generatrix and/or parallel to the central median axis (7) of the annular element (1), characterized in that at least two longitudinal ribs (3), lying side by side, having an essentially parallel direction of projection, extend from the outer surface (5).

2. (Original) The annular element according to claim 1, characterized in that the lateral surfaces of at least two side-by-side longitudinal ribs (3) which have an essentially rectangular or at least partially rectangular cross section, are essentially and at least partially aligned in parallel, whereby the surface of the longitudinal ribs (3) facing the annular element (1) is adapted to the curvature of the outer surface (5).

3. (Currently Amended) The annular element according to ~~either claim 1 or 2~~, characterized in that at least one longitudinal rib (3) has a radial direction of projection.

4. (Currently Amended) The annular element according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterized in that the longitudinal ribs (3) are arranged at regular distances from one another.

5. (Currently Amended) The annular element according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that transverse ribs (2) which are aligned in peripheral direction and extend parallel to one another, in particular crossing the longitudinal ribs (3), in particular continuous, are provided on the outer surface (5).

6. (Currently Amended) The annular element according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, characterized in that the annular element (1) is assembled, in particular screwed,

glued or welded together, in particular in a watertight manner, from several, in particular 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 or 10, partially cylindrical or partially truncated conical annular segments (10), in particular of the same dimensions.

7. (Original) The annular element according to claim 6, characterized in that the longitudinal ribs (3) are constructed mutually identical.

8. (Currently Amended) The annular element according to ~~either claim 6 or 7~~ claim 6, characterized in that all longitudinal ribs (3) of an annular segment (10) extend from the outer surface (5) with an essentially parallel direction of projection.

9. (Currently Amended) The annular element according to ~~any one of the claims 6 to 8~~ claim 6, characterized in that the lateral surfaces of all longitudinal ribs (3) of an annular segment (10) which are, in particular, essentially rectangular or at least partially rectangular in cross section are aligned essentially parallel to one another.

10. (Currently Amended) The annular element according to ~~any one of the claims 6 to 9~~ claim 6, characterized in that each annular segment (10) has a longitudinal rib (3) with a radial direction of projection.

11. (Currently Amended) The annular element according to ~~any one of the claims 6 to 10~~ claim 6, characterized in that each annular segment (10) has at least one longitudinal rib (3) which extends parallel to the angular symmetrical plane (20) of the central angle ( $\alpha$ ) of the annular segment (10) extending through the median axis (7).

12. (Currently Amended) The annular element according to ~~any one of the claims 6 to 11~~ claim 6, characterized in that the longitudinal ribs (3) of each annular segment (10) are arranged at regular distances from one another, preferably symmetrically to the angular symmetrical plane (20).

13. (Currently Amended) The annular element according to ~~any one of the claims 6 to 12~~ claim 6, characterized in that a longitudinal rib (3) of each annular segment (10) lies on the angular symmetrical plane (20).

14. (Currently Amended) The annular element according to ~~any one of the claims 6 to 13~~ claim 6, characterized in that each annular segment (10) has radially outward and/or inward projecting broad flange surfaces (16) on its straight broad sides (15) via which the annular segments (10) can be connected to one another, in particular in a watertight manner, to form an annular element (1).

15. (Currently Amended) The annular element according to ~~any one of the claims 6 to 14~~ claim 6, characterized in that the annular element (1) or each annular segment (10) has on its curved longitudinal sides (17) normal to the median axis or axis of curvature (7), outwardly and/or inwardly projecting longitudinal surfaces of the flange (18) via which the annular element (1) can be connected to further annular elements (1), in particular in a watertight manner, to form a pipe-cased shaft or the like.

16. (Currently Amended) The annular element according to ~~claim 14 or 15~~, characterized in that recesses (21) for fastening means are provided in the broad surfaces (16) of the flange and/or the longitudinal surfaces (18) of the flange.

17. (Currently Amended) The annular element according to ~~any one of the claims 6 to 16~~ claim 6, characterized in that, in particular, continuous transverse ribs (2) are provided on each annular segment (10) on the outer surface (5) extending in peripheral direction and parallel to one another, in particular crossing the longitudinal ribs (3).

18. (Currently Amended) The annular element according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 17~~ claim 1, characterized in that the longitudinal ribs (3) are continuous.

19. (Currently Amended) The annular element according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1, characterized in that the annular element (1) and/or the individual annular segments (10) are made as one-piece shaped parts.

20. (Currently Amended) The annular element according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 19~~ claim 1, characterized in that the annular element (1) and/or the individual annular segments (10) and/or the shaft constructed from annular elements (1) are surrounded, at least partially, on the outside (5) by a concrete layer.

21. (Currently Amended) The annular element according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 20~~ claim 1, characterized in that at least one groove (16', 18') is made in the longitudinal surface (16) and/or in the broad surface (18) of the flange for accommodating seals (16", 18") with which adjacent broad surfaces (16) or longitudinal surfaces (18) of the flanges can be sealed.

22. (Currently Amended) A shaft, in particular a channel shafts or pipe-cased shaft, constructed of annular elements according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 21~~ claim 1.